

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

6 FEB. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

Yesterday, Moscow again rebuffed our approach on a cease-fire. At Vientiane, however, Soviet Ambassador Abramov appeared receptive to Phoumi's "explanation" that the government's opposition to Souvanna seeing the King had been "misunderstood." Phoumi said he was indeed willing to meet Souvanna in Luang Prabang to discuss arrangements for another meeting of the three Princes. An ICC delegation accompanied by Abramov and the British Ambassador is now in Souvanna's capital sounding him out. Meanwhile, Kong Le forces are maintaining their pressure on government positions at Nam Tha and other points. Sarit, seriously concerned over the Nam Tha threat, has sought US views on Phoumi's urgent request for Thai military assistance.

2. Congo

a. Tshombé, undaunted by his passport and visa "troubles," is still trying to get to the U.S. He has asked to meet Adoula here "immediately" and envisages a stay of at least a month. He now has requested a British visa.

b. Gizenga remains in protective isolation on a Congo river island.

c. Deployment of UN troops to disturbed areas of the interior is proceeding on schedule.

3. French impatient for Algerian settlement

a. We see this theme running through De Gaulle's speech yesterday. French officials recently have been active in passing the word that time is running out on negotiations.

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b. Algeria's North African neighbors reportedly are also pressing the provisional government for quick action on an accord. The Algerians, hampered by factional differences, appear intent on checking through every echelon of their complex "government" structure before making any final commitment.

4. Sino-Soviet bloc aid to under-developed areas

a. We calculate Bloc countries extended last year almost one billion dollars in economic assistance and well over 500 million dollars in military aid to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America - the USSR accounting for 85 percent.

b. This makes nearly 7 billion dollars allocated to these areas since 1954, with, however, actual drawings so far amounting to less than 3 billion.

NOTES

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B. Indonesian Communists are busy agitating for military action against West New Guinea. [REDACTED] 50X1

C. Contrary to Western radio and press interpretation, we find last week's speech by Mikhail Suslov - leading Soviet party theoretician and alleged hard line critic of Khrushchev - to be an unqualified defense of the Soviet premier's "peaceful coexistence" line.

D. Possible "neutral bloc" countermeasures to the Common Market [REDACTED] are under discussion at the Tito-Nasir meetings in Cairo. They believe the market discriminates against less developed countries in favor of industrialized nations. 50X1

E. The Dominican government has finally resolved to crack down on increasing leftist disturbances.

F. Thompson reports the Soviet press effort depicting Punta del Este as a US diplomatic defeat appears "defensive." He detects an awareness that Cuba's utility for Soviet designs in Latin America may be lessening.

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- I. Preliminary Finnish election returns indicate a general swing to the right. Kekkonen's Agrarians have displaced the Communists as the largest parliamentary party. Communist and left-wing Socialist representation in the 200-seat parliament has dropped from 101 to 88.
- J. Deployment yesterday of aircraft associated with the Soviet space program may indicate preparation for a space launch and recovery operation this month.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE